

## Magazine ranks Owensboro one of top economies in U.S.

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OWENSBORO, KY (WFIE) - Economic magazine Site Selection named Owensboro as one of the top mid-sized metropolitan cities in terms of economic development.

The city tied with Bowling Green for 8th place.

"Any time you get national recognition in economic development activity," Nick Brake of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Coporation said. "Certainly in tough economic times, it's a great opportunity and great news."

Officials hope others will take notice.

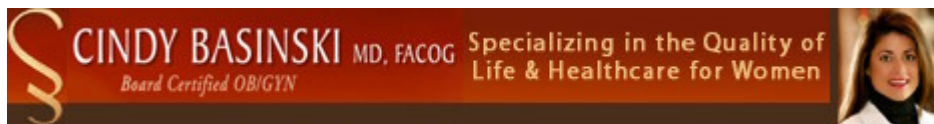
"People won't expand to a city or expand in a location unless they know it's viable economically and there's activity going on," Brake said. "It's really important to be able to demonstrate that we have vibrancy to us, we have economic development projects that are ongoing."

Mayor Ron Payne says he thinks Owensboro could rank even higher next year with several large-scale projects including the new hospital, the bypass extension, and the revitalization of downtown Owensboro.

Colby's Restaurant has been on the corner of 3rd and St. Ann in downtown Owensboro for 21 years and its owner hopes the redevelopment of downtown will spark the local economy.

"It's just going to put us on the map," Colby MacQuarrie said. "We're doing all this in a so-called blighted economic time, but once it's completed I think we'll be about five years ahead of most communities our size. The community really supports local companies and local businesses and I think that's one thing they can call it their own."

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